

Appl. No. 10/688,335  
Amdt. dated 16 May 2005  
Reply to Office action of 15 February 2005

REMARKS:

In the Claims:

The applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-11, 16-18, and 20. In light of the below arguments, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 12-15 and 19.

Claim Objection:

Claim 8 has been amended to correct the informality. Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the objection of claim 8.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections:

Claims 12-15, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0021691 A1 (Powers). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection. Both of the independent claims 12 and 19 require that "each resilient member" be "positioned" (claim 15) or extend (claim 19) "between one of the plurality or radially outwardly extending ribs and one of the plurality of radially inwardly extending ribs." (Emphasis added.) As explained in the specification, and shown in Fig. 4, each "resilient member 22 is interposed between each propeller rib 30 and corresponding drive member rib 24." (Pg. 6, ll. 17-18.) In contrast, none of the resilient member 17-19 of Powers is interposed between a pair of ribs 6, 13. Rather, at least one side of each resilient member 17-19 is positioned between another resilient member 17-19 as opposed to another rib 6 or 13. (See Powers, Figs. 4, 6, and 9.) For at least this reason, independent claims 12 and 19, and therefore dependent claims 12-15, distinguish over Powers. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 12-15 and 19.

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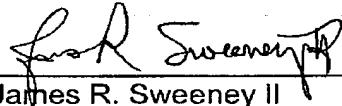
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that all rejections and objections be withdrawn and the claims be passed to allowance.

No fees are thought due. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees including extension of time, excess claim fees, or any other fees other than issue fees, or to credit any overpayment of fees, to the account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 with reference to file 3282-72278. The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned to discuss this case.

Respectfully,

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